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REPORT OF THE AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON COORDINATION IN MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

(Headquarters of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Vienna, 14-16 September 1992)

CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
I.	MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION	1 - 3	2
II.	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS OF THE MEETING ..	4 - 42	3
	A. Review of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control	7 - 11	3
	B. Review of the draft report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in drug abuse control	12 - 13	5
	C. Inter-agency collaboration on demand reduction programmes	14 - 22	5
	D. Selection of substantive themes on which attention should be focused at future Inter-agency Meetings	23 - 25	7
	E. United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	26 - 33	8
	F. Other matters	34 - 40	10
	G. Adoption of the report	41 - 42	11

Annexes

I.	AGENDA	12
II.	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	13

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

1. For reasons set out below, in paragraph 40, the Meeting recommended that the next Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control be convened at Vienna on 7 and 8 April 1993, in conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and that its provisional agenda include the following items:

(a) Review of the draft report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in drug abuse control;

(b) Review of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control;

(c) Multisectoral activities of the United Nations system in endeavours to reduce illicit drug supply;

(d) Consideration of outlines and allocation of drafting responsibilities for single system-wide position papers for:

(i) Fourth World Conference on Women: paper on the theme "Women, drug abuse and drug control";

(ii) Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: paper on the theme "International cooperation in crime prevention and drug control";

(iii) World Social Summit: paper on the theme "The social and economic impact of drug abuse and control";

(e) United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking;

(f) Other matters;

(g) Adoption of the report.

2. The Meeting also recommended that the autumn Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control be convened at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris from 6 to 8 September 1993 at the invitation of the Director-General of UNESCO.

3. The attention of ACC is also drawn to the summary of the substantive discussion and decisions of the Inter-agency Meeting, set out below.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

4. As approved by the Organizational Committee of ACC, the Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control was held at the headquarters of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), Vienna, from 14 to 16 September 1992. The agenda for the Meeting and the list of participants are contained in annexes I and II to the present report.

5. On behalf of the Executive Director of UNDCP, absent from Vienna on an assignment from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the participants were welcomed by the Officer-in-Charge of UNDCP, the Director of the Division for Operational Activities. He invited the participants to seek new approaches to more effective cooperation, especially at the field level, in responding to challenges posed by drug abuse and illicit traffic. He referred to the alarming proportions of growing world-wide drug abuse, to the gigantic financial assets acquired by illicit traffickers and the destruction of the environment through illicit cultivation and processing of narcotic drugs. He briefed the participants on counter-measures being implemented by UNDCP, which included the elaboration and promotion of the Drug Control Master Plan approach at the national, subregional and regional levels in various parts of the world. He emphasized that little could be achieved by UNDCP alone without the support of other organizations and agencies, both at their respective headquarters and, especially, in the field. He suggested that as many organizations as possible should include references to drug control in their policy manuals and invited the Meeting to discuss practical tools for more active inter-agency cooperation and coordination. Referring to substantive items on the Meeting's agenda, he emphasized the necessity to pay equal attention to both demand reduction and supply reduction in developing and industrialized countries and to streamline collaboration.

6. The Meeting was chaired by the Head of the Inter-Organization Cooperation Division, UNDCP. The Meeting adopted its provisional agenda, with the understanding that a number of additional issues would be considered under the item "Other matters".

A. Review of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

7. The Chairman introduced the revised text of the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (second draft, together with an addendum) and informed the Meeting of the modifications made in the document following the decision of the last Inter-agency Meeting. A completely new chapter VI, "Multisectoral activities" devoted to action addressing more than one aspect of the drug control problem, such as the Drug Control Master Plan approach, subregional, cross-sectoral and interorganizational activities, had been prepared and incorporated in the draft. The Chairman pointed out that incorporation of the new chapter might lead to more extensive and action-oriented coordination in drug abuse control matters. Furthermore, the United Nations policy-making

bodies had decided that the Action Plan itself must be kept under regular review.

8. During the discussion the representative of INSTRAW provided additional information on the existing facilities of her organization in dealing with the various areas related to women and drug abuse and called for stronger emphasis on that subject in the System-wide Action Plan. The representative of CSDHA/UNOV recommended enlarged coverage of money-laundering problems and more active inter-agency collaboration on that priority issue. The representative of the ILO welcomed the inclusion of the new chapter in the revised Action Plan and suggested that the document be formulated in a more action-oriented fashion.

9. The representative of UNICRI advocated a more practical approach to system-wide activities, one which would be less formal, thereby facilitating a more expeditious exchange of information among United Nations entities on their new initiatives. Such an approach would help reduce still existing instances of overlapping in drug abuse control activities. She also spoke in favour of modern electronic means of communication among United Nations entities. Those views were strongly supported by the representative of UNESCO.

10. The representative of UNDP welcomed the inclusion of the new chapter on multisectoral activities, especially in view of UNDP's extensive cross-sectoral approach at the field level. She stressed the usefulness of including a section in chapter VI on the importance of support to drug abuse control provided within the context of comprehensive multisectoral approaches used by the financing agencies, such as UNDCP, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and others.

11. On the basis of a proposal by the representative of WHO, the Meeting agreed that the organizations and agencies would carefully study the current text of the Action Plan and communicate to UNDCP by the end of October 1992 their comments, views and/or additional contributions. UNDCP would then incorporate the material received and distribute the revised document to the concerned United Nations entities by no later than the end of November 1992. The final text, which should be ready by the end of January 1993, could then be submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-sixth session and to other bodies as required.

B. Review of the draft report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in drug abuse control

12. The Chairman introduced the draft report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in drug abuse control, prepared by UNDCP on the basis of contributions received from various United Nations entities and organizations. Following a decision taken at the Inter-agency Meeting in September 1991 (ACC/1991/PG/11, para. 21), a transitional report had been prepared for submission to the General Assembly in 1992 covering the last six months of 1991. Activities undertaken in the calendar year 1992 would therefore be reported to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session in 1993.

13. The Meeting considered the draft report of the Secretary-General. It was agreed that comments provided and suggestions for improvement would be taken into account before submission of the draft to United Nations Headquarters.

C. Inter-agency collaboration on demand reduction programmes

14. The Head of the Technical Services Division of UNDCP introduced a draft paper on the UNDCP Demand Reduction Strategy and welcomed the opportunity to disburse ideas based on the discussions among the organizations and agencies.

15. The Meeting considered the papers introduced by representatives of WHO, UNICRI, the ILO and FAO. It was suggested that those papers be distributed among United Nations agencies and donor Governments. The representative of WHO identified concrete points for action at the local, national and international levels and underlined the importance of a comprehensive approach. The representative of UNICRI stressed the need for a multidisciplinary approach and exchange of expertise among relevant United Nations entities. The representative of the ILO presented highlights of his organization's paper and stressed the need for adequate attention to rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes in the demand reduction continuum. He also suggested the elaboration of overall drug abuse management approaches, including a separate and differentiated approach to special groups. He cited interregional/regional consultations and training activities as potentially useful tools for improving inter-agency cooperation. The representative of FAO stressed the need of producing material for special audiences, particularly for rural women and the leaders of rural youth groups.

16. During the discussion, the representative of INSTRAW called for more attention to the protection of girls from drug abuse. The representative of UNESCO pointed out that UNESCO's approach to demand reduction was strongly linked to principles of democracy, human rights and needs for development. Therefore, UNESCO's education activities focused on creating awareness, training decision makers, stimulating civic involvement and conducting research. She proposed that UNDCP analyse all the papers received and prepare a combined document on demand reduction.

17. The representative of the ILO proposed that representatives concentrate on those issues where divergence of position existed. The representative of CSDHA/UNOV invited the participants to concentrate on the social causes of drug abuse and to take into account such factors as human and social rights, social discrimination and the role of the family. A proposal to single out a pilot project with multisectoral demand reduction activities on the basis of the Master Plan approach in a specific country was well received. The representative of the ILO noted that some agencies had not been included in specific project planning exercises and urged UNDCP to broaden the participation.

18. Participants also discussed a matrix of cooperation on demand reduction presented by UNDCP on the basis of contributions submitted by organizations. The representative of the ILO stressed the need to identify in each case three key elements in the approach - i.e., target groups, settings to address them, and measures to be taken. The representative of UNICRI called for the development of technical guidelines for demand reduction programming and referred to the necessity of exchanging experiences among various United Nations entities. The representative of CSDHA proposed that more attention should be paid to law enforcement and social factors, such as the family, housing and unemployment. The representative of UNIDO informed the participants that, in addition to supply reduction activities, it was increasingly focusing on demand reduction projects, especially in the area of rural development. The need for education and awareness-raising campaigns to facilitate community participation was emphasized. The representative of the World Bank commended UNDCP's matrix presentation on demand reduction, which could facilitate cooperation in that sphere. In support of that approach, it could provide United Nations entities concerned with additional information on the economies of certain countries and public expenditure patterns. The representative of WHO referred to the paper prepared by the ILO and invited UNDCP to comment on it, especially on the very constructive policy suggestions it contained. The representative of FAO emphasized the large potential of non-governmental organizations in demand reduction activities and stressed the importance of securing the commitment of Governments to demand reduction programmes. The representatives of UNIDO and the World Bank informed the participants of a non-governmental youth movement in Europe, called "Bioforce-95", which concentrated on emergency humanitarian assistance, and proposed to establish contacts with the organization in order to ascertain what cooperation in demand reduction activities could be secured.

19. The work of UNICRI in collecting data on drug addiction was commended and it was proposed that UNICRI could also prepare a paper on the subject. The representative of the ILO informed the participants that his organization was preparing a manual for drug control policy makers on rehabilitation aspects.

20. UNDCP pointed to the advantages of the support by the United Nations system of Governments in elaborating demand reduction components of the overall Drug Control Master Plans, which in addition to contributing to the development process, stimulated inter-agency cooperation and the mobilization of resources, including those which existed at the country level. Several

agencies reiterated their preparedness to participate in formulating, reviewing or otherwise contributing to Master Plans, as appropriate. A more accurate assessment of the economic and political ramifications of the drug abuse problems was required, taking into consideration the existence, in some countries, of entire parallel drug economies. Since drug abuse problems affected all regions of the world, the Drug Control Master Plan approach should be used in dealing with that problem both in developing and developed countries.

21. The representatives of FAO and the ILO proposed that a framework for Drug Control Master Plans be developed, including all elements of a demand reduction component or chapter. The framework should contain a general introduction highlighting the multisectoral nature of such plans and specific introductions to chapters such as the one on demand reduction. It was suggested that UNDCP's strategy for demand reduction be used as a basis for such a Master Plan framework. UNDCP and other organizations volunteered to submit to the next Inter-agency Meeting, in April 1993, inventories of demand reduction activities. UNDCP further agreed to prepare an outline for the preparation of such inventories as well as guidelines for demand reduction programming. The representatives of WHO and the ILO stated that inter-agency collaboration in demand reduction should be forward-looking. They urged all agencies to exchange information on forthcoming activities at an early date, referring specifically to those in the planning stage in order to facilitate system-wide input.

22. A video film being prepared by UNESCO focusing on community activities in Senegal and addressing, inter alia, the question of drug abuse, was viewed by the participants. The representative of UNESCO seized the opportunity to inform the participants that her organization was preparing a directory of institutions working worldwide in preventive education against drug abuse and indexes of audio and visual materials, a preliminary, non-exhaustive list of which was available to participants at the Meeting.

D. Selection of substantive themes on which attention should be focused at future Inter-agency Meetings

23. The Meeting agreed that the themes on which attention would focus at future Inter-agency Meetings should be those for each year of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the subthemes for the annual observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Furthermore, the theme should, whenever possible, be related to major United Nations-system events. In that context CSDHA mentioned, in particular, the International Year of the Family (1994), the World Social Summit (1995) and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1995).

24. After some discussion, the following themes were selected:

(a) 1993: Prevention of drug abuse through education: a multidisciplinary duty in the context of human development;

(b) 1994: Women, drug abuse and drug control;

(c) 1995: International cooperation in drug control: a mid-term review of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse;

(d) 1996: Social and economic impact of drug abuse and control.

25. The representative of IFAD proposed that since the September 1992 Inter-agency Meeting did not allow for the necessary discussion of supply reduction and rural development, as originally scheduled, and bearing in mind the crucial nature of those issues, the item would be included in the provisional agenda of the April 1993 Inter-agency Meeting. It would include the role of the multisectoral activities of United Nations organizations and agencies.

E. United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26. The Coordinator for the Decade recalled that the General Assembly had proclaimed the period 1991-2000 as the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, to be devoted to effective and sustained national, regional and international actions to promote the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA). The document containing the GPA continued to require widespread distribution to help promote the implementation of the principles and strategies contained therein.

27. An agenda for action through the end of the century had been identified and ratified at the intergovernmental level. The international community had agreed on the general lines to be followed in preventing drug abuse and combating the illicit drug traffic in all its manifestations. In addition to the major drug control treaties, basic principles and guidelines were contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted in 1987, in the Global Programme of Action and in the System-wide Action Plan.

28. As the Executive Director had stressed at the April 1992 session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Decade must become a watershed. It had become increasingly clear that the momentum generated throughout the international community, culminating with the first special session of the General Assembly on international drug control, must be maintained and built upon. UNDCP remained deeply aware of the need to enlist the participation and support not only of governmental forces, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations but indeed of the basic forces of society, including parents, educators, opinion makers, religious groups and concerned individuals in order to meet the challenge posed by drug abuse. The key role of the various agencies, programmes and entities of the United Nations system within their respective areas of competence was similarly recognized.

29. In December 1991, the Assembly adopted a resolution inviting the Coordinator for the Decade "to promote and monitor international efforts for the Decade" and requested the Commission to keep it informed of developments in the area. All participants were urged to keep the Coordinator for the Decade advised of activities undertaken, so as to be better able to report to the Commission and to seek the necessary resources to strengthen the concerted response of the United Nations system.

30. In his message issued in connection with the International Day in June 1992, the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the fact that the UNDCP served as the focal point for the Decade. In fact, from the perspective of the Decade, the first important step within the United Nations was the creation of the UNDCP, intended as a more efficient and coordinated structure in order to enable the United Nations to play the central and greatly increased role required. All supportive activities undertaken by and on behalf of UNDCP might be said to forward the central objectives of the United Nations Decade, including the facilitation and enhancement of international cooperation towards more effective drug abuse control.

31. A preliminary draft of the list of national focal points for the Decade communicated to UNDCP was distributed, as was a summary report of special activities undertaken in observance of the 1992 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. A number of planned projects were mentioned, including, in particular, a proposed world conference of non-governmental organizations. The need to continue building blocks of all participating elements on a cumulative basis was noted. Appreciation was expressed for the contributions already made within the United Nations system to assist in the promotion of the observance of the Decade. The role in raising awareness of public service announcements in the mass media was acknowledged.

32. In addressing matters relating to the Decade, the participants made a number of suggestions, including:

(a) The importance of timely distribution of information material, particularly in developing countries;

(b) The usefulness of visual presentations on drug abuse control;

(c) The need to strengthen cooperative ties with non-governmental organizations;

(d) The potential for supportive and preventive work among refugees and returnees;

(e) The urgency of completing and disseminating the master directory of national focal points or coordinating committees.

33. While highlighting the need for intensified measures for demand reduction, there was unequivocal recognition that coping effectively with the drug abuse phenomenon required a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach, addressing all aspects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

F. Other matters

34. The Director of the Division for Operational Activities of UNDCP shared with participants his views on practical cooperation concepts, in particular on ways and means to stimulate inter-agency cooperation at the field level, the desirability of concluding inter-agency cooperation agreements and of incorporating drug abuse control policy statements into the policy manuals of organizations of the United Nations system. He gave some examples of areas and subjects where United Nations organizations and agencies could intensify their cooperation in drug related matters, pointing out that cooperation should develop, in equal proportions, at the field level, among organizations' headquarters, and with Governments.

35. The representative of IFAD commended the presentation and proposed the exchange of country strategies by UNDCP and United Nations organizations and agencies, clarification of decision-making procedures and participation in tripartite reviews, when possible. Emphasis was placed on encouraging the involvement of the often diverse governmental departments and governmental agencies involved. The representative of the World Bank suggested that that could be facilitated by placing the drug control initiatives within the context of broad sectoral support programmes.

36. Participants proposed the development of computerized joint roster of experts for use by the United Nations system and its constant updating. UNDCP clarified that such a roster was in the making and that it would share the information with those who asked for it. It was suggested that the questionnaires for candidates for employment be amended by the personnel offices of the various organizations so as to ascertain whether applicants had drug control-related experience or expertise.

37. UNDCP informed the Meeting that an in-house working group was redesigning the formats for UNDCP project documents and related instruments such as the project funding request. The objective was to improve the quality of project design and implementation and to make procedures as simple as possible. On a related point, it was currently possible to approve multi-year global or regional projects.

38. The Meeting considered the draft of the third issue of the Inter-Agency Update on Drug Control Activities in the United Nations System of Organizations and made recommendations for its further improvement.

39. Turning to preparations for future inter-agency meetings, the Meeting agreed that the United Nations system should endeavour to provide single position papers on drug control to the three important 1995 international

forums of the United Nations system: the Fourth World Conference on Women; the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; and the World Social Summit.

40. The substantive papers would have to be prepared in time for consideration by the preparatory committees. The initial drafting of a document outline would be undertaken in close consultation with participating organizations for a first reading by the Inter-agency Meeting proposed for April 1993 in conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Therefore, in addition to the usual organizational matters, the April 1993 Inter-agency Meeting would have to consider the outline for three major substantive papers. It was therefore decided to request that the meeting in April 1993 be extended to two-days duration. It would have to be convened in such a manner that its first day coincided with the last day of the Commission session. In view of the international community's decision that increased attention should be given to demand reduction, the September 1992 Inter-agency Meeting did not allow for a satisfactory discussion of multisectoral activities of the United Nations system, including those of the funding agencies, in endeavours to reduce supply of illicit drugs. It was therefore decided to include the item "Multi-sectoral activities of the United Nations system in endeavours to reduce illicit drug supply" on the provisional agenda of the April 1993 Inter-agency Meeting.

G. Adoption of the report

41. The report of the Meeting was adopted, as amended during the discussion.

42. The consultation on "Drug abuse and HIV/AIDS", organized on the initiative of the Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, was held in Vienna on 17 September 1992 with the participation of UNDCP, UNOV, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Social Development Division/CSDHA, Division for the Advancement of Women/CSDHA, UNRWA, UNICRI, the ILO, UNESCO, WHO and UNIDO. Participants deemed the discussion to have been fruitful and constructive and recommended that the topic be included in the agenda of future Inter-agency Meetings in order to permit follow up on ideas generated and to enhance concrete collaborative action on the topic.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Review of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

4. Review of the draft report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in drug abuse control.

5. Inter-agency collaboration on demand reduction programmes.

6. Selection of substantive themes on which attention should be focused at future ad hoc Inter-agency Meetings.

7. United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

8. Other matters:

   (a) Practical cooperation concepts, recommendations for conclusion of inter-agency cooperation agreements, incorporation of drug abuse control policy statements into official policy manuals of respective organizations of the United Nations system, inter-agency cooperation at the field level;

   (b) Draft of the third issue of the Inter-Agency Update on Drug Control Activities in the United Nations System of Organizations, its content and format, practical usefulness of the document, means of its further improvement, optimum frequency of future issues;

   (c) Preparations for the next Inter-agency Meeting, including its provisional agenda.

9. Adoption of the report.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Ms. Liselotte WALDHEIM-NATURAL, Head, Inter-Organization Cooperation Division, UNDCP

Secretary: Mr. Vladimir FENOPETOV, Chief, Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, IOCD, UNDCP

United Nations

United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)	Mr. G. MERREM Mr. G. DAY Mr. L. MANUECO-JENKINS Mr. B. ANDRASEVIC Mr. P. K. BAILEY Ms. C. FAZEY Mr. C. BANGOURA
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Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA)	Mr. H. WOLTRING Mr. K. NEUDEK Ms. J. GREIG
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Ms. K. SPRINGER
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	Mr. D. ROSS
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Ms. A. M. CANONICA
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)	Ms. N. MINESS
United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)	Ms. M. E. ANDREOTTI

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Mr. B. SHAHANDEH
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Mr. W. I. LINDLEY
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Ms. M. BRIGAUD-ROBERT

World Health Organization (WHO)	Mr. J. V. SAILAS
World Bank (IBRD)	Mr. P. DUFOUR
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Mr. B. BALDWIN
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Mr. Z. CSIZER